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Health and Human Services Interim Committee  
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel  
State Capital  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Dear Members:

Pursuant to UCA 63-97-201(6)(b), this Annual Report regarding the Utah Drug Board Program is prepared for the Health and Human Services Joint Appropriations Subcommittee. This program is funded with the Tobacco Settlement Restricted Account as outlined in UCA 63-97-201(4)(d) and is broken out into three different state departments:

- . \$77,400 to the Board of Pardons and Parole
  - . \$81,700 to the Department of Corrections
  - . \$350,900 to the Department of Human Services
- \$510,000 Total**

Funds to the Board of Pardons and Parole are dedicated for a hearing officer. Funds to the Department of Corrections are for an Adult Probation and Parole supervisory agent and support staff. Funds to the Department of Human Services are for the substance abuse therapy.

The model is based on the Drug Court Program and is designed for offenders who have been in prison and are now on parole. Participants will have had numerous opportunities on parole which have failed due to serious substance abuse problems. This program is an intensive effort to change criminal cognitive thinking in hope of keeping offenders from returning to prison.

Attached is a program overview and a statistical profile of the Drug Board participants over the past year. The Board is concerned that although this “pilot” program is now over six years old, there has never been an impartial assessment by an independent evaluator to determine this program’s effectiveness. Accordingly, the Board questions whether the current program represents the most effective use of these monies to address drug problems among parolees.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtis L. Garner, Chairman  
Utah Board of Pardons and Parole

## **DAVIS/WEBER DRUG BOARD PROGRAM**

The Drug Board Program began in Davis County March 14, 2001, and in Weber County March 15, 2001. The intent was to create a pilot program to reduce the number of parolees who abuse drugs and alcohol from returning to prison and is administered by the Board of Pardons and Parole, Division of Substance Abuse and the Department of Corrections.

- Goals:
1. Reduce recidivism and limit drug use among offenders
  2. Strengthen family ties and the work ethic
  3. Promote behavior that conforms to community norms

This is not a re-entry court. The Drug Board works exclusively with parolees. Those parolees on the street, identified as needing more structure and intense supervision, are referred to the Drug Board by agents. Those paroling from the institution who are in need of intense support and additional treatment are ordered into the Drug Board as a condition of parole.

Criteria for acceptance: Parolees who use drugs and/or alcohol as an alternative to prison  
No sex offenders  
No severe mental or physical health problems  
Histories of prior violence will be evaluated on a case by case basis

Staff intensive: One agent assigned in each county to Drug Board parolees  
Two agents assigned as bailiffs during each court session  
One hearing officer at all hearings

Program expectations: All parolees will submit at least two urine samples a week  
Additional samples are required at staff request  
All participants are required to attend school or have employment  
Parolees must attend individual treatment and all groups assigned  
Participants will be in court with the Board hearing officer each week  
The parole agent will make field visits regularly

Sanctions: For relapse (drug use) or disciplinary (behavior)  
Educational (report writing)  
Community service (work projects, no pay)  
Additional treatment sessions and additional hours in groups  
Supervised residential housing  
Halfway Back program (county jail) Lock up (county jail)  
Board warrant (back to state prison)

## 2006 Profile of Drug Board Participants

<b>Weber County</b>		Referred individuals are those who were accepted into the Drug Board. Some were referred and rejected or never made their initial appearance at the Board and are not considered in these calculations.
Accepted	<b>244</b>	
Currently Involved	<b>36</b>	
<b>Davis County</b>		
Accepted	<b>148</b>	
Currently Involved	<b>22</b>	
<b>Profile of 392 accepted into the program as of December, 2006</b>		
Female	<b>109</b>	
Male	<b>260</b>	
Average Age	<b>34.3</b>	
Average number of paroles per offender	<b>2.8</b>	
<b>230</b> warrants have been issued to return participants to prison.		
<b>273</b> <u>completed</u> Phase I in an average of <b>139 days</b> .		
<b>186</b> <u>completed</u> Phase II in average of <b>199 days</b> .		
<b>145</b> <u>completed</u> Phase III in average of <b>195 days</b> .		
<b>109</b> <u>completed</u> Phase IV in average of <b>214 days</b> .		

To date, approximately 59% or 230 have been returned to prison by Board warrant, while 157 remain in the community. Of these, 99 have successfully completed the program.

Incentives:

**PHASE SYSTEM**

**Phase One**

- Acceptance into program
- Outline expectations
- Report to Drug Board court every week
- Begin treatment
- Complete Phase One Treatment requirements
- 4-6 weeks drug/alcohol free

**Phase Two**

- Report to Drug Board court every 2 weeks
- Work, school, primary caregiver
- Using daily planner/schedule appointments
- Complete Phase Two Treatment requirements
- 16 weeks drug/alcohol free

**Phase Three**

- Report to Drug Board court every 3 weeks
- Living in Agent approved residence
- Working on financial responsibilities
- Complete Phase Three Treatment requirements
- 24-30 weeks drug/alcohol free

**Phase Four**

- Report to Drug Board court every 4 weeks
- Begin work mentoring with the Treatment people
- May pick any program Treatment offers
- Complete Phase Four Treatment requirements
- 8-10 weeks drug/alcohol free

Upon completion of the program, a Special Attention action is submitted to the Board of Pardons and Parole requesting a termination of sentence for the parolee. Failure to complete the program may result in a return to prison.